

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 5, Number 4, October 2007

October 22nd MEETING
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
ART DECO HOUSTON
WITH HISTORIANS
JIM PARSONS AND DAVID BUSH
MUSEUM OF PRINTING HISTORY
1324 W. CLAY

The Museum of Printing History is located at 1324 W. Clay Street between Waugh Drive and Montrose, one block south of West Dallas. Free parking is available in the lot across the street or in the small lot on the left, adjacent to the Museum building.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!
www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF *THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH*

The President's Column
Historians Jim Parsons and David Bush to Speak at October 22nd Meeting
News from the Texas Room
 by Carol Johnson, Interim Manager, HMRC
Minutes of the July 23rd General Meeting
Policies
Cultural Matching Gifts
Dues Reminder
Friends of the Texas Room: Who We Are
How to Contact Friends of the Texas Room
How to Contact *The Texas Room Dispatch*
Join the Friends of the Texas Room
Membership Application

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM MEETINGS

Currently, all meetings will be held on Monday evenings at the Museum of Printing History unless otherwise reported. All meetings begin with a reception at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00. Please mark your calendars for future meetings: October 22nd, 2007; January 22nd, 2008; April 28th, 2008; July 28th, 2008; October 27, 2008.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

In anticipation of the new archival wing which will be built behind the Julia Ideson Building, the library administration and staff and the board of the Friends agree on the need for an inventory of the collections to be followed by cataloguing of those items found not to be already catalogued. The entire process (inventory and cataloging) will take several years, and we hope that, if we start now, it can be close to completion by the time the new wing is finished.

To this end your board met recently with Dr. Lawson, Carol Johnson, who is acting head of the HMRC/Texas Room, and several other key administration personnel. We agreed that the Friends would recruit volunteers willing to devote a minimum of one half day per week to work on the inventory. Once the inventory is completed, professional archivists will be hired to do the cataloguing. We hope to complete the inventory of the Texas Room collection by early summer 2008.

To begin this project, we are extremely fortunate to have three eminently qualified volunteers who already have many hours of experience working in the Texas Room. They are Betty Chapman, Sims McCutchan, and Anne Sloan. These three volunteers were among the founders and on the first board of directors of the Friends. They are being trained by and will work under the supervision of Carol Johnson. Phase one will involve examining each item on the shelf in the Texas Room to confirm that it is listed in the online library catalog. We anticipate that their work will be well underway by the end of December so that we will be able to start training more volunteers to begin work in January. A total of about ten volunteers will be needed to complete the initial inventory of the Texas Room Collection by next summer.

If you have the time and interest to be trained to participate in this work, please email Carol Johnson at carol.johnson@cityofhouston.net. This is an extremely valuable service which we are happy to offer to the library.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

HISTORIANS JIM PARSONS AND DAVID BUSH TO SPEAK AT OCTOBER 22ND MEETING

The speakers for our October 22nd meeting are Jim Parsons and David Bush, authors of *Houston Deco: Modernistic Architecture of the Texas Coast*.

The authors will discuss the surviving Art Deco and Art Moderne architecture in many parts of Houston from graceful downtown buildings to industrial sites in the East End.

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Carol Johnson, Interim Manager, HMRC

Staff changes dominate events in HMRC during this last quarter. Steve Hill, who has been Assistant Manager of the Texas Room for just over a year, transferred to the Houston Public Library's External Affairs Division, where he will be guiding and monitoring grant applications and reports for the Library as a whole. Andy Hempe, Archivist III, and Tammy Jordan, Archivist II, have both left to pursue specialized training in the archival field. We wish them all great success with these career moves.

Aaron Winslow has reported for duty as a new Librarian II in the Texas Room. Aaron holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. He brings us experience in reference service, library-use instruction, and technology planning. We are counting on him to help us move forward with web-based access to our collections.

Carol Johnson, former Manager of the Texas Room and currently Special Projects Coordinator for the Deputy Director of Public Services, is serving as interim manager of HMRC until position is filled permanently. That is expected to happen soon; a recommendation is making the rounds for administrative approvals even now. Other vacancies will be filled as quickly as possible once the new manager is in place.

You still have six weeks to stop by and view our current exhibit on African-American Texans. Ingrid Grant did a wonderful job of pulling together a sampling of the many resources in our collection.

Sincerely,

Carol Johnson

MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2007, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at 7 P.M., 2007, at the Museum of Printing History following a convivial reception hosted by the Hospitality Committee and a warm greeting to members and guests by Membership Chairman Dorothy Johnson.

President Dorothy Knox Houghton introduced the evening's speaker, Marks Hinton, a graduate of St .John's School and SMU, investment broker, and founding board member and first treasurer of the Friends of the Texas Room. Mr. Hinton became enthralled by Houston's history, leading him to turn to the Texas Room and interviews to unravel the mysteries of our street names. From

his book *Historic Houston Streets: The Stories Behind the Names*, Hinton recounted tales that were amusing, tragic, and of great historic interest.

The Hospitality Committee was thanked, the minutes of the meeting on April 30th approved, and Cathy Fitch's treasurer's report was filed. Dorothy Johnson reported that there were 160 members. Sally and Dick Luna were introduced as co-chairs of the Publicity Committee. Dorothy Knox introduced Robin Cavanaugh, Assistant Director for External Affairs at the Houston Public Library, who will help us with publicity.

Sims McCutchan reported as chair of the Community Outreach Committee. He said that they were trying to identify organizations with common interests and had found 25-30 that will be explored further. He also mentioned that the Friends of the Texas Room Board is considering the possibility of an annual award to a person whose research in the Texas Room has resulted in a book, article, film, or other such endeavor.

Jeff Lindemann announced that the Friends of the Texas Room website, after four years of planning, is now up and operating. It is hosted by the Houston Public Library. He expressed his thanks also to its creator, Joyce Evans of Niche Marketing. The website, which includes the complete archives of the *Dispatch*, is found on www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

Dorothy Knox Houghton said that the final editing stage of the hour-long documentary is under way, and the plan is to be able to excerpt segments for customized presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Dix, Secretary

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* (jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize HMRC resources. We like to hear what our Friends are doing!

POLICIES

Policies of the Friends of the Texas Room

Relating to The Houston Metropolitan Research Center which includes the Collections of the Archives and Manuscripts Department, the Texas and Local History Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Public Library

A. Contributions

From time to time, the Friends of the Texas Room will purchase and contribute to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library items that will enrich and enhance the above-named collections and ensure their preservation.

All such contributions will be purchased by the Friends directly and then given to the Library with specific stipulations as to how such contributions are to be used by the Library to enhance and ensure the preservation of the HMRC collections.

The Friends will give no money directly to the Library.

The Friends will not buy expendable supplies for the Library.

The Friends will not fund Library personnel.

B. Relationship to Administration and Staff

The Friends of the Texas Room is not to be involved in the administrative or employee actions of the Center, except that the Friends can question policies which, in its opinion, negatively impact the ability of the Center to provide service to the public.

CULTURAL MATCHING GIFTS

Are you or your spouse working for or retired from a corporation which makes cultural matching grants or volunteer involvement awards if you give to or do volunteer work for a cultural institution?

Will your employer match your gifts to cultural institutions that qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code?

The Friends of the Texas Room has such a qualification. Send your corporation's cultural matching funds form with your check for membership in FTR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTR and can be used towards making a difference to the Texas Room and HMRC.

DUES REMINDER

Our membership year runs from January 1 - December 31. Please fill in the membership form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check to P. O. Box 27827, Houston, TX 77227-7827. Make your check payable to "Friends of the Texas Room." If you have friends who might be interested in membership, please submit their names and addresses and we will send them information. If you have email, please include it. This saves us mailing costs.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM: WHO WE ARE

Mission: The Friends of the Texas Room seeks to support the collections of the Texas and Local History Department, the Archives and Manuscripts Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library.

Board of Directors:

President – Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice-President – Sims McCutchan

Secretary – Mary Dix

Treasurer – Cathy Fitch

Directors: Nancy Burch, Susan Keeton, Caro Walker, and Jim Parsons

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the following address:

Friends of the Texas Room
P. O. Box 27827
Houston, Texas 77227-7827

HOW TO CONTACT THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

Submissions and comments for *The Texas Room Dispatch* should be emailed to the editor jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann
The Texas Room Dispatch Editor
3405 Roseland
Houston, Texas 77006

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Please spread the word and help us find new members. If you have access to a list of likely members, which you can share with us, we would appreciate it. The membership application on the next page can be emailed to your prospects or photocopied and faxed or mailed to prospective members.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2008 Membership Application

Membership Year: January 1 – December 31

RETURN TO: P.O. BOX 27827 * HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS:

first name middle name last name

first name middle name last name

Mailing Address (include street or P.O.): _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, OR EMAIL

First Person

2nd Person (If Different)

HOME: _____

HOME: _____

OFFICE: _____

OFFICE: _____

FAX: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please check category)

_____ Benefactor	\$500	_____ Patron	\$250
_____ Sponsor	\$100	_____ Donor	\$50
_____ Family	\$30	_____ Individual	\$20
_____ Senior	\$10	_____ Student	\$10

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution): \$ _____

NOTE: Friends of the Texas Room is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization operating under IRS Code 501(c) (3). Membership and additional contributions over and above membership are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Is your gift eligible as a “matching gift” from an employer or other entity? If so, please give the name and include the appropriate form.

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS

Please check below if you would like to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

- Collections Volunteer: Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research techniques.
- Newsletter: Writing articles about materials in the collections or reporting on related activities.
- Website manager: Design and maintain an official site for the Friends of the Texas Room.
- Membership: Maintain up-to-date membership list and send out renewal notices.
- Telephone/E-Mail Committee: Contact for meeting cancellations, unscheduled events, or breaking news.
- Hospitality: Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.
- Programs: Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.
- Public Relations: Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.
- Special Projects
- Other: _____

